



VETERANS VOICE

Winnebago County Department of Veterans Services Newsletter

March 2022

VA Honors Women On The Front Lines

During March, VA celebrates the women on the front lines whose commitment to service embodies the national 2022 Women’s History theme: “Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope.” This recognition includes those who served during this pandemic, either on active duty or as Veterans. It also includes the VA employees who continue to serve Veterans in person, at remote locations, over the phone and via telehealth.

During World War I, women served on the front lines as nurses, ambulance drivers and relief workers. Female physicians ran their own hospital units and served in the military as contract surgeons. More than 59,000 nurses served on the front lines in the Army Nurse Corps during World War II. They served under fire in field hospitals, on hospital trains and hospital ships, and as flight nurses on medical transport planes. Throughout both world wars and in the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, many faced discrimination and criticism when they prioritized serving their country over taking care of their families.

Women now serve on multiple front lines. They are leaders within their units, at hospitals, and serve as military police officers, chief nurses, educators and trainers, front-line combat pilots, disaster response coordinators, scientists, medical directors and more.

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“Women are like tea-bags. We don’t know our true strength until we are in hot water.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt

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Lt. Alcestee Drisdale
U.S. Air Force



Lt. Cmdr. Bernice Walters
U.S. Navy



2nd Lt. Inez E. Holmes
U.S. Army



Continued...

Today, women are also on the front line of establishing policy at the highest levels of national defense. [U.S. Army General Laura Richardson](#) currently leads the U.S. Southern Command and [U.S. Air Force General Jacqueline Van Ovost](#) currently leads the U.S. Transportation Command. The [Honorable Christine Wormuth](#) is the Secretary of the Army, and [Dr. Kathleen Hicks](#) is the Deputy Secretary of Defense.

Women front-line workers are warriors. During this ongoing pandemic, VA has seen their own front-line health care workers in leadership roles at their respective facilities. They delivered solutions to problems and led large-scale triage systems, urgent medical staffing, equipment and PPE ordering, and national telehealth programs. Women front line workers championed VA in distributing 8.9 million vaccine doses to more than 4.1 million people nation-wide.

Join VA throughout March as they commemorate women on the front lines. Follow along as they share snapshots of “how it started” and “how it’s going.” Join us on VA’s [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and follow [Center for Women Veterans](#) to see and share stories of how it started and how it’s going.

VA is committed to honoring and respecting all women Veterans. VA provides the health care services you need and can trust. Resources available at VA include the following:

- [Comprehensive women’s health care](#) is available to serve your unique health care needs.
- [Women Veterans Call Center](#) is a free service available to you, your family and caregivers to answer questions. Call or text 855-VA-WOMEN (855-829-6636) or [online chat](#) as often as you need.
- [Center for Women Veterans](#) (CWV) coordinates VA’s administration of health care benefits, services and programs to serve you.
- [VA Women’s Health Reengagement Training](#) (heaRT) is a free, interactive virtual classroom and in-person course designed for women Veterans who left the military and never engaged with VA health care. This course includes information on women’s health services.

Women’s History Month

Women’s History Month is a celebration of women’s contributions to history, culture and society and has been observed in the month of March in the United States since 1987. It is a dedicated month to reflect on the often-overlooked contributions of women to United States history. From Abigail Adams to Susan B. Anthony, Sojourner Truth to Rosa Parks, the timeline of women’s history stretches back to the founding of the United States.

The actual celebration of Women’s History Month grew out of a weeklong celebration of women’s contributions to culture, history and society organized by the school district of Sonoma, CA in 1978. A few years later, the idea had caught on within communities, school districts and organizations across the country. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women’s History Week. The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a national celebration. Six years later, the National Women’s History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the event to the entire month of March

The National Women’s History Alliance designates a yearly theme for Women’s History month. The 2022 theme is “Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope.” This theme is “both a tribute to the ceaseless work of caregivers and frontline workers during this ongoing pandemic and also a recognition of the thousands of ways that women of all cultures have provided both healing and hope throughout history.”

Women Veterans Call Center

The Women Veterans Call Center is your guide to VA. The Women Veterans Call Center will help you navigate VA, point you in the right direction, and connect you with the Women Veterans Program Manager at your local VA medical center. This service is free and confidential, and you can call as many times as you need. If you are a woman Veteran you may call for yourself, or anyone may call for a woman Veteran you know. All calls are answered by women, some of whom are Veterans themselves.

Call or text the Women Veterans Call Center at 855-VA-WOMEN (855-829-6636) or use [the online chat feature](#). Women Veterans Call Center representatives are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 10:00 pm ET, and Saturday, 8:00 am to 6:30 pm ET, excluding federal holidays. If you contact the Women Veterans Call Center after hours and leave a message, you will receive a return call the next day the call center is open.

The Women Veterans Call Center is your resource for information about a variety of services and benefits that you have earned and deserve through your military service. The Women Veterans Call Center can be your first call to find out how VA can help you. No question is too big or too small, and every question is important. Examples of questions the Women Veterans Call Center can help with are:

- How to reconnect with VA health care if you applied a long time ago but never used your benefits.
- How to connect with your local women's health contact including your local Maternity Care Coordinator or Women Veterans Program Manager who will assist in coordinating all the services you need.
- How to find out what you are eligible for (including general questions about disability ratings) and other VA benefits like employment, education, and home loans.
- How to refill your prescriptions or make an appointment.

The following will happen when you contact the Women Veterans Call Center:

- You will connect with a trained VA Women Veterans Call Center representative.
- The representative will conduct a brief screening to assess your needs and carefully listen to your questions.
- VA Staff may request your contact information to follow-up with you.
- You will receive personalized information regarding health care services, VA benefits and services, and a packet of information will be sent to your home if requested.

Any woman Veteran or person that has questions about services and benefits available to women Veterans at VA may use the Women Veterans Call Center. You can use it even if you are not registered with VA or enrolled in VA health care. Many women Veterans call to learn about benefits and eligibility and to discuss issues they face like homelessness, maternity care, infertility treatment options, military sexual trauma, and environmental exposures.

As a woman Veteran, you have earned and deserve the best care anywhere. Women Veterans should enroll for VA health care benefits to ensure they receive the comprehensive benefits package offered through VA's national health care system. VA offers comprehensive medical care, including any necessary medical outpatient and inpatient services. If you have any questions about enrollment you can call the Women Veterans Call Center. You may also visit <https://www.va.gov/health-care/eligibility/> for more information about VA health care eligibility.

To learn more about women's health services and resources and how to access them, you can listen and subscribe to the [She Wears the Boots](#) podcast for an in-depth look at important health topics and related services or take the [Women's Health Transition Training](#) to learn more about available women's health care services and how to access them.

Upcoming Event



Military Veterans Museum and
Education Center's
Third Annual CornHole (Bean Bag)
Tournament



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Saturday April 9th, 2022

Military Veterans Museum
and Education Center
4300 Poberezny Rd
Oshkosh, WI 54902

All proceeds benefit the

Military Veterans Museum and Education Center

Tournament
Play.
Team With
the most
points wins,
Trophies with
gift card for
1st, 2nd and
3rd Place!

Registration:
8:00 am Game
play 9 am – 3 pm
\$15.00/person
Sign up with a
partner or
individually. 1st
28 teams play

QUESTIONS:
Call (920) 891-
5188 or email
Dennisorseske
@gmail.com

Food and
Beverages
Available for
Purchase. Please
No Carry-ins

CONTACT US

**Winnebago County
Veterans Service Office**

Oshkosh Location
112 Otter St.
Oshkosh, WI 54901
(920) 232-3400

Neenah Location
211 N. Commercial
Neenah, WI 54956
(920) 729-4820

Stay informed about bene-
fits; join our e-mail list.
Send a request to:

CVSO@co.winnebago.wi.us

Visit us on the web at:

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veterans](http://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/veterans)



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For a list of more events,
check out our calendar!